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Project report
STS390, “Media, war and peace”

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Science, Technology & Society
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The report has two parts.

1. A response pack for an actual organisation. This is not an official document and does not necessarily represent the views of the organisation.

Julia Beasy's response pack, a slide show for the Salvation Army, is a separate file, with an additional separate file for music backing. This response pack was produced jointly with Esther Johnson.

Please note that this slide show was not produced on behalf of The Salvation Army and may not entirely reflect their beliefs or views. This was purely an assignment and not an official statement from The Salvation Army. However, the facts presented are true, as referenced in the bibliography.

2. A dialogue between two students discussing the project. This dialogue is fictional. Pseudonyms were used so that the marker, Brian Martin, would not know the identity of student authors.

Julia Beasy's dialogue starts on the next page.

STS 390 Project Report
Dialogue between Deborah and Andrea

PART ONE

Andrea: Hi Deb, so any ideas for our STS project?

Deborah: Actually, yes. I was really interested by the class activity on social justice, so I thought maybe we could focus on that theory. But I'm not sure how...

Andrea: I agree. Social justice would be interesting to investigate, and... we could focus on human trafficking. I've heard a bit about it since the film *Amazing Grace* which came out last year about slavery. People used that to bring to light human trafficking as a modern-day form of slavery.¹

Deborah: Good idea. I've heard a little about that as well. Maybe we could use World Vision as our organisation, or The Salvation Army.

Andrea: Well The Salvation Army would be a good organisation to choose because my mum works there. We could easily line up a few interviews.

Deborah: Great! And The Salvation Army is already involved with the fight against human trafficking aren't they?

¹ The Salvation Army *Stop Human Trafficking*

Student number: 3100674

Andrea: That's right. They formed a campaign called Stop the Traffik with World Vision. I think it was mainly about creating awareness.² Other than that, I don't know much else, so it will be interesting once we get to interview members of the organisation about the work they are currently involved in.

Deborah: Ok then, so social justice is our theory, human trafficking is our focus, and The Salvation Army is our organisation. Let's do a bit of research and then meet again to discuss what we have learned before starting our interviews.

PART TWO

Deborah: How did you go with your research Andrea?

Andrea: Really well actually. I have learned a lot about the social justice theory, human trafficking and The Salvation Army. And you?

Deborah: Great also. I found a helpful definition in David Miller's book, *Social Justice*. He basically explained that social justice is, hang on, let me quote it "the distribution of benefits and burdens throughout a society" and it protects legal rights, the rights to housing and health care etc.³

² *Stop the Traffik*

³ Miller 1976, p.22

Student number: 3100674

Andrea: That is a good definition. It's nice and straightforward so we should include that in our project pack, which by the way I thought we could do a PowerPoint for...

Deborah: Oh, and I thought maybe our audience could be the members of the church who want to know what their church is doing about human trafficking. So, if you're happy with that, I think a PowerPoint show would work really well, because it is a method The Salvation Army would probably choose.

Andrea: That sounds perfect! And I just saw in my notes that I also have an explanation of social justice from Miller, who says it is when each individual receives the benefits that are entitled to them⁴. Plus, I also have a definition of social *injustice* which is when harm is caused to those individuals who are fairly powerless to resist⁵.

Deborah: Good work. They are helpful definitions. I also thought that as a part of explaining the theory of social justice we could integrate a discussion of human rights because it is important in understanding human trafficking.

Andrea: That is true. Well Hodge explains that the concept of human rights is about the idea that every human being should be treated equally, and be given

⁴ Miller in Simon 1995, p.8

⁵ Simon 1995, p.30

Student number: 3100674

respect, dignity and a sense of worth⁶. Doesn't the United Nations have a Declaration on Human Rights?

Deborah: Yes they do, I looked it up and discovered a few key articles which could be relevant to human trafficking. Article 4 explains that slavery is a prohibited practice; article 5 bans torture or degrading punishment; article 23.1 says everyone is entitled to free choice of employment and article 24 is about everyone working reasonable hours and receiving holidays.⁷

Andrea: Wow, and human trafficking obviously does *not* adhere to those laws. Especially when you consider the story of this girl, Layla⁸, who I read about on the internet. She was smuggled into the United States at the age of 11 and was forced into household work by her captor, which including caring for his children.⁹ Well that clearly breaks article 4! She was also constantly raped which led to a pregnancy¹⁰, so that's cruel treatment, and human trafficking breaks article 5. Ok, what else is in here...? Oh, eventually she was removed from that home and placed in foster care and her captor was arrested.¹¹ The poor girl.

⁶ Hodge 2007, p.140

⁷ United Nations Department of Public Information

⁸ name changed for privacy reasons

⁹ Africans in America, Inc

¹⁰ Africans in America, Inc

¹¹ Africans in America, Inc

Student number: 3100674

Deborah: That's just awful. And her overall situation breaks article 23.1 as well, because she certainly didn't choose to work like that, and she never got holidays or rests, so number 24 is not adhered to either! I think we should definitely include all of that in our pack, it is relevant to the theory of social justice and Layla's story helps explain the situation of human trafficking in relation to the theory. So what do we know about the extremity of the situation? How many people, like Layla, are trafficked?

Andrea: Well The Salvation Army's website says that approximately 2 million people are trafficked every year.¹²

Deborah: Every year?!

Andrea: Unfortunately. And David Hodge refers to estimates that say that 50 percent of trafficked people are children and 70 to 80 percent are female.¹³ So while men are a minority, I guess they are still susceptible.

Deborah: What scary statistics. And actually, when you mentioned The Salvation Army I remembered I found a bit out about the Stop the Traffik campaign you mentioned the other day. Basically it has three focuses: education, advocacy and fundraising.¹⁴ They want to educate citizens and create awareness of the issue of human trafficking, they advocate to powerful groups,

¹² The Salvation Army *Stop Human Trafficking*

¹³ Hodge 2008, p.143

¹⁴ *Stop the Traffik*

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such as the United Nations, and they fundraise by selling merchandise such as keyrings¹⁵.

Andrea: Ok, well now we know a bit more about human trafficking and The Salvation Army, I think we are ready to start the interviews. I was thinking maybe two employees and three members of the church?

PART THREE

Andrea: Hmm, looking at these interviews we did with the employees, The Salvation Army is heavily involved in fighting human trafficking.

Deborah: Yeah, I'd never heard anything about Samaritan Accommodation. It sounds good though, because it provides care to victims of trafficking who the police have identified¹⁶. And the house provides basic needs and help with legal, financial and psychological issues.¹⁷

Andrea: And regarding Stop the Traffik, they really discussed the campaigning issue we already read a bit about. So I guess Stop the Traffik focuses on creating awareness while the Samaritan Accommodation is a practical way to help victims.

¹⁵ *Stop the Traffik*

¹⁶ Interview with employee

¹⁷ Interview with employee

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Deborah: Yeah... And judging by these interviews with the church members, and then comparing them to what the employees said, people want to know how they can help.

Andrea: That's right, I remember that. The employees expected questions pretty much identical to the questions the church members had: wanting to help financially, to promote awareness, to actively help, and to pray. So I think that they will be important areas to mention in the project pack.

Deborah: And the church members wanted basic facts about the issue, they all knew very little. They wanted to know where it occurs, how it happens, what happens, how many people are affected etc. So we will have to give some general information about it. And I guess we also need to give a clear definition of what it is... Oh, here's one... the transportation of persons, using threat, for the purpose of exploitation.¹⁸

Andrea: That's a good one.

Deborah: You know what else, I can't seem to understand and believe that human trafficking still occurs, when there are laws against it.

Andrea: Oh yeah, I know what you mean, slavery is an illegal practice, and the United Nations have the Declaration on Human Rights against it.

¹⁸ United Nations General Assembly 2000, Article 3A in Fergus 2005, p.2

Deborah: And not only that, but it is explicitly illegal in Australia. The Federal Police have outlawed slavery, sexual servitude, deceptive recruiting, trafficking in persons and debt bondage¹⁹. Yet the criminal practice still rakes in millions of dollars.

Andrea: Billions. It is the third most lucrative criminal business, after drugs and weapons²⁰.

Deborah: That's what I mean. Obviously the legislation is not anywhere near strict enough if that is what is happening, when it is illegal. So many innocent women, children, and men trapped and trafficked. Bought and sold as slaves.

Andrea: That's so true. We need to go deeper with fighting for this human rights issue.

Deborah: That is what one of the employees said. Stop the Traffik is a good awareness campaign, but we need to get to the root causes of the problem.

Andrea: It seems as though social justice is a good concept, but we can't leave it as simply a concept. We need to help those individuals in poverty-stricken situations who are most vulnerable to being trafficked.

¹⁹ Australian Federal Police 2008

²⁰ Hodge 2008, p.145

Deborah: And I suppose we need to be aware of the theory ‘social justice’ being so ‘Western’. It is a majority of ‘westerners’ who define social justice and human rights, but those rights may not consider specific culturally acceptable behaviours²¹. We say that all individuals should be able to work. But maybe certain societies disagree, and women should never work.

Andrea: This topic is sure interesting. I think I would like to take a deeper look at the issue and try and work at solving the causes. Maybe identifying them and helping those who are vulnerable: the disabled, poor, orphans, uneducated etc²².

Deborah: Yeah, maybe that can be the next step for The Salvation Army. They have campaigns to promote awareness and they help victims, but more needs to be done. While they do help those groups you mentioned, maybe they can start to with an aim to help prevent human trafficking. You know, explaining to those who are vulnerable how to recognise traffickers, how to resist them, or what they can do if they do get trafficked.

Andrea: Yeah, you are right. Well we have got a lot of material gathered and lots of thoughts about the issue, so let’s get started on this PowerPoint!

²¹ Hodge 2007, p.140

²² Hodge 2008, p.145

References

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